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**Subject:** Monument Talking Points  
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Downey - fyi, these are some talking points Heather put together on the Monument Review

#### **TPs on the Monument Review Process**

- The Antiquities Act calls for the President to designate the 'smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected. Despite this clear directive 'smallest area' has become the exception and not the rule.
- In an effort to make the process transparent and give people a voice in the process, the secretary announced on May 5, 2017 the opening up of a formal comment period for the review. This is the first time ever that a formal comment period was open on [regulations.gov](#) for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.
- Since May, Secretary Zinke has visited eight national monument sites in six states. He's held dozens of meetings with Tribal, local and state government officials, local stakeholders, and advocates from conservation, agriculture, tourism, and historic preservation organizations. The Secretary meets with people and organizations who represent all sides of the issue.
- Secretary Zinke traveled to eight national monuments (Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine Monument, Katahdin Woods and Waters, Cascade Siskyou, Organ Mountains Desert Peaks, Gold Butte, and Basin and Range) to conduct on the ground research and meet with local, state, and Tribal stakeholders.
- Interior also established a formal public comment period for the monument review. This is the first time ever a formal comment period occurred for Antiquities Act-designated National Monuments.

#### **TPs on the EO and background on AA**

- On April 26, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 13792, entitled "Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act."
- The Antiquities Act mandates that the limits of the parcels of land reserved as National Monuments "shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected."
- Many of the most controversial national monuments were designated or expanded in the waning days of a presidency after partisan efforts to designate the land stalled in Congress. This is a clear violation of the will of the People and an overuse of executive power.
- Presidents have reduced the size of monuments about a dozen times in the past. The most significant reduction was in 1915 under President Woodrow Wilson, when he halved Mount Olympus National Monument (it has since become a National Park).
- President Trump's executive order limited the review to monuments designated after January 1, 1996 and over 100,000 acres in size, or monuments that the Secretary deems to have been created without adequate public input.
- The order directed the Secretary to submit an interim report on Bears Ears National Monument within 45 days. The report was delivered to the White House on June 10, 2017.
- The order directed the Secretary to submit a report on all other monuments under review within 120 days, which is August 24, 2017.

#### **Fact and Fiction of the Monument Review**

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